

AM Signal on FM Translators

WTOE, Spruce Pine, N. C. is a local family owned and operated AM that serves a town of 2,000 people in a county of 16,000 and rural area with some of the highest mountains in Eastern America and the most severe weather including cold and snow and occasional flooding. The station is a source a vital information including local news, weather and community service. WTOE's daytime coverage with 5,000 watts non directional includes most of the county. However at nighttime with a post sunset authority of 103 watts our coverage is extremely limited and we are unable to provide this important local programming to about 75% of the county because of our limited coverage on AM.

In 1991 when WTOE was failing, our family purchased the station, made many improvements and investment in order to add many localized programming features which enhance the stations popularity because of the information and other programming services that we provided. However, limitations on coverage at night means we are unable to provide these important programming features, vital weather, road and school information and emergency announcements as well at coverage of community meetings, high school sports and activities at night to much of the county that we serve during the day. The big city FM's that come into the county at night do not provide this localized information.

We urge the FCC to adopt AM on FM transmitters so we can rebroadcast our signal and provide localized community service so badly need in our area at night. This would be very much in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Remelle Sink, President/Owner WTOE